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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/759,294	01/11/2001	Kouji Sakai	YAMAHS.778A	2802

20995 7590 05/12/2003

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EXAMINER

BURCH, MELODY M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3683

DATE MAILED: 05/12/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Interview Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/759,294	SAKAI, KOUJI
	Examiner Melody M. Burch	Art Unit 3683

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Melody M. Burch. (3) _____.

(2) Michael Giuliana. (4) _____.

Date of Interview: 08 May 2003.

Type: a) Telephonic b) Video Conference
c) Personal [copy given to: 1) applicant 2) applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) Yes e) No.
If Yes, brief description: _____.

Claim(s) discussed: 1,17 and 31.

Identification of prior art discussed: Sakai '018 and Tschanz.

Agreement with respect to the claims f) was reached. g) was not reached. h) N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: Examiner and Applicant's representative discussed the proposed amendments attached with the Interview Summary. The amendments to claims 1 and 31 appear to overcome the Sakai '018 reference but will require further consideration.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN ONE MONTH FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.



Examiner's signature, if required

Summary of Record of Interview Requirements

Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 713.04, Substance of Interview Must be Made of Record

A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face, video conference, or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews Paragraph (b)

In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

37 CFR §1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.

All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.

It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner's responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete an Interview Summary Form for each interview held where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below. Where the substance of an interview is completely recorded in an Examiners Amendment, no separate Interview Summary Record is required.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate Paper No., placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the "Contents" section of the file wrapper. In a personal interview, a duplicate of the Form is given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephone or video-conference interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant's correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:

- Application Number (Series Code and Serial Number)
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (telephonic, video-conference, or personal)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, examiner, other PTO personnel, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). Note: Agreement as to allowability is tentative and does not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview (if Form is not an attachment to a signed Office action)

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his or her obligation to record the substance of the interview of each case. It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview.

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:

- 1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
- 2) an identification of the claims discussed,
- 3) an identification of the specific prior art discussed,
- 4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the Examiner,
- 5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner,
(The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he or she feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner.)
- 6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
- 7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant's record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete and accurate, the examiner will give the applicant an extendable one month time period to correct the record.

Examiner to Check for Accuracy

If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth the examiner's version of the statement attributed to him or her. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication, "Interview Record OK" on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner's initials.

CLAIMS FOR INTERVIEW YAMAHS.778A

1. (Amended) A suspension system for a four wheeled vehicle, said suspension system comprising a first damper, a second damper, a third damper and a fourth damper, each of said dampers comprising a cylinder body and a piston arranged to reciprocate within said damper, each piston dividing an interior of each cylinder body into an upper chamber and a lower chamber, each piston also comprising a fluidic connecting passage that places said upper chamber and said lower chamber in fluid communication, said lower chamber of said first damper and said lower chamber of said second damper being interconnected with a pressure regulator, said pressure regulator comprising a first pressure regulating chamber and a second pressure regulating chamber, a first movable wall defining at least a portion of said first pressure regulating chamber and a second movable wall defining at least a portion of said second pressure regulating chamber, said lower chamber of said first damper being fluidically connected to said first pressure regulating chamber and said lower chamber of said second damper being fluidically connected to said second pressure regulating chamber, a passage extending between said first pressure regulating chamber and said second pressure regulating chamber, said pressure regulator further comprising a third pressure regulating chamber a portion of which is defined by the second moveable wall, said third pressure regulating chamber being fluidically connected with said third damper and said fourth damper through at least a first conduit and a flow regulator, said flow regulator containing a first flow regulating chamber and a second flow regulating chamber, and said first flow regulating chamber and said first conduit communicating through a throttled passage.

2. The suspension system of Claim 1, wherein said third damper and said fourth damper are interrelated through a second pressure regulator and said second pressure regulator defines a connection between said third damper and said fourth damper and said third pressure regulating chamber.

3. The suspension system of Claim 1, wherein said first damper is a front left damper and said second damper is a front right damper.

4. The suspension system of Claim 1, wherein said first damper is a front left damper and said second damper is a rear left damper.

5. The suspension system of Claim 1, wherein said first damper is a front left damper and said second damper is a rear right damper.

6. **(Previously Amended)** The suspension system of Claim 1, wherein said flow regulator comprises a third flow regulating chamber and said first flow regulating chamber and said second flow regulating chamber are segregated from each other by a movable partition and said first flow regulating chamber and said first conduit communicate through a throttled passage extending through said movable partition.

7. The suspension system of Claim 6, wherein said first conduit, said flow regulator and said second conduit form a passageway between said third damper, said fourth damper and said pressure regulator.

8. The suspension system of Claim 6, wherein said flow regulator further comprises a third pressure regulating chamber, said third pressure regulating chamber being separated from said second pressure regulating chamber by a second movable partition.

9. The suspension system of Claim 8, wherein said flow regulator further comprises a sub-cylinder, said sub-cylinder being in fluid communication with said third pressure regulating chamber and said sub-cylinder comprising at least one movable partition.

10. The suspension system of Claim 9, further comprising a throttled passage connecting said sub-cylinder and said third pressure regulating chamber.

11. The suspension system of Claim 6, further comprising a throttle disposed along said first conduit.

12. **(Previously Amended)** The suspension system of Claim 11, wherein said throttle is positioned at a juncture between fluid lines extending from said third damper and said fourth damper.

13. The suspension system of Claim 1, wherein said first movable wall and said second movable wall are connected such that said first movable wall and said second movable wall move synchronously.

14. The suspension system of Claim 1, wherein said first movable wall contains a recess and said second movable wall is disposed within said recess.

15. The suspension system of Claim 1, wherein said first flow regulating chamber and said second flow regulating chamber are integrally formed in a single component.

16. The suspension system of Claim 1, further comprising a throttle positioned along said first conduit between said flow regulator and said pressure regulator.

17. **(Amended)** A suspension system comprising a first damper, a second damper, a third damper and a fourth damper, said first damper and said second damper being joined by a first pressure regulator and defining a first damper pair and said third damper and said fourth damper defining a second damper pair, said first damper pair and said second damper pair being connected together through means for regulating flow, said first pressure regulator and said means for regulating flow being connected in series between said first damper pair and said second damper pair. Only

18. The suspension system of Claim 17 further comprising a first pressure regulator connecting said first damper pair, whereby said means for regulating flow regulates flow into a chamber of said first pressure regulator.

19. **(Amended)** The suspension system of Claim 18 further comprising a second pressure regulator connecting said second damper pair to said means for regulating flow.

20. The suspension system of Claim 17, wherein said first pair of dampers comprises a front left damper and a front right damper.

21. The suspension system of Claim 17, wherein said first pair of dampers comprises a front left damper and rear right damper.

22. The suspension system of Claim 17, wherein said first pair of dampers comprises a front left damper and rear left damper.

23. **(Cancel)**

24. **(Cancel)**

25. **(Cancel)**

26. **(Cancel)**

27. **(Cancel)**

28. **(Cancel)**

29. **(Cancel)**

30. **(Cancel)**

31. **(Twice Amended)** A suspension system for a four wheeled vehicle, said suspension system comprising a first damper, a second damper, a third damper and a fourth

(add "fluidic" + "fluidically communicating")
like amendments to Claim 1



damper, each of said dampers comprising a piston device arranged to act upon fluid within at least two fluid chambers, each of the fluid chambers being in fluidic communication with each other, at least one of the chambers of the first damper and at least one of the chambers of the second damper being interconnected with a pressure regulator, said pressure regulator including a first pressure regulating chamber and a second pressure regulating chamber, a first movable wall defining at least a portion of said first pressure regulating chamber and a second movable wall defining at least a portion of said second pressure regulating chamber, said at least one chamber of said first damper being connected to said first pressure regulating chamber and said at least one chamber of said second damper being connected to said second pressure regulating chamber, a passage extending between said first pressure regulating chamber and said second pressure regulating chamber a portion of which is defined by the second moveable wall, said pressure regulator further comprising a third pressure regulating chamber, said third pressure regulating chamber being connected with said third damper and said fourth damper through at least a first conduit and a flow regulator, said flow regulator containing a first flow regulating chamber and a second flow regulating chamber, and said first flow regulating chamber and said first conduit communicating through a throttled passage.

32. The suspension system of Claim 31, wherein said third damper and said fourth damper are interrelated through a second pressure regulator and said second pressure regulator defines a connection between said third damper and said fourth damper and said third pressure regulating chamber.

33. The suspension system of Claim 31, wherein said flow regulator comprises a third flow regulating chamber and said first flow regulating chamber and said second flow regulating chamber are segregated from each other by a movable partition and said first flow regulating chamber and said first conduit communicate through a throttled passage extending through said movable partition and said flow regulator and said pressure regulator are connected by a second conduit as well.

34. The suspension system of Claim 33, wherein said first conduit, said flow regulator and said second conduit form a passageway between said third damper, said fourth damper and said pressure regulator.

35. The suspension system of Claim 33, wherein said flow regulator further comprises a third pressure regulating chamber, said third pressure regulating chamber being separated from said second pressure regulating chamber by a second movable partition.

36. The suspension system of Claim 35, wherein said flow regulator further comprises a sub-cylinder, said sub-cylinder being in fluid communication with said third pressure regulating chamber and said sub-cylinder comprising at least one movable partition.

37. The suspension system of Claim 36, further comprising a throttled passage connecting said sub-cylinder and said third pressure regulating chamber.

38. (Previously Amended) The suspension system of Claim 31, further comprising a throttle disposed along said first conduit, and said throttle being positioned at a juncture being fluid lines extending from said third damper and said fourth damper.

39. The suspension system of Claim 31, wherein said first movable wall and said second movable wall are connected such that said first movable wall and said second movable wall move synchronously.

40. The suspension system of Claim 31, wherein said first movable wall contains a recess and said second movable wall is disposed within said recess.

41.(New) A suspension system for a four wheeled vehicle, said suspension system comprising a first damper, a second damper, a third damper and a fourth damper, each of said dampers comprising a cylinder body and a piston arranged to reciprocate within said damper, each piston dividing an interior of each cylinder body into an upper chamber and a lower chamber, each piston also comprising a connecting passage that places said upper chamber and said lower chamber in fluid communication, said lower chamber of said first damper and said lower chamber of said second damper being interconnected with a pressure regulator, said pressure regulator comprising a first pressure regulating chamber and a second pressure regulating chamber, a first movable wall defining at least a portion of said first pressure regulating chamber and a second movable wall defining at least a portion of said second pressure regulating chamber, said lower chamber of said first damper being connected to said first pressure regulating chamber and said lower chamber of said second damper being connected to said second pressure regulating chamber, a passage extending between said first pressure regulating chamber and said second pressure regulating chamber, said pressure regulator further add "fluidic" and "fluidically communicating" terms like in amendments to claim 1. -5-

comprising a third pressure regulating chamber, said third pressure regulating chamber being connected with said third damper and said fourth damper through at least a first conduit and a flow regulator and wherein the first and second dampers are not connected to the third chamber, said flow regulator containing a first flow regulating chamber and a second flow regulating chamber, and said first flow regulating chamber and said first conduit communication through a throttled passage.